



STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE STATE BUDGET
LANSING



CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION

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DATE: March 17, 2006

TO: School District Superintendents and Public School Academy Administrators

FROM: Margaret M. Ropp, Ph.D., director, Center for Educational Performance and Information
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jet Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D., deputy superintendent/chief academic officer,
Michigan Department of Education

SUBJECT: Graduation and Dropout Rates for School Year 2004-2005

It is that time again when we need to begin calculating the graduation and dropout rates for the 2004-2005 school year. Over the past year, several events have impacted the 2004-2005 graduation and dropout rate calculation process including the following:

1. The State School Aid Act was signed into law in September of 2005 and directed the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) to determine the graduation and dropout rates pursuant to national standards. To comply with the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), the law no longer excludes migrant and alternative education students.
2. The National Governors Association's (NGA) recommended methodology was identified as the national standard by Governor Granholm, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and the Department of Management and Budget (DMB).

As a result of these events, over the next couple of years Michigan will transition away from using aggregated data to determine the graduation and dropout rates, and move toward determining the rates based on a student cohort that is followed for four years, as the NGA methodology prescribes. The formula for determining the 2004-2005 graduation and dropout rates will be the same as that used for determining the 2003-2004 rates, however, migrant and alternative education students will now be included in the calculations.

In order to make this transition period as smooth as possible, a Web-based application will be available in late spring for districts and schools/facilities to review their 2004-2005 calculated rates and adjust the results based on their most recent knowledge of the students' movements. To prepare for the Graduation and Dropout Review and Comment Application, we suggest the following actions:

- 1) **Review documentation:** It is very important for you and your staff to obtain and become familiar with the information related to the graduation and dropout rates. The documentation is located on the CEPI Web site at www.michigan.gov/cepi. From the CEPI home page, click on "Graduation and Dropout Rates Information" on the right-hand "Quick Links" navigation bar.

- 2) **Review schools/facilities that will receive rates:** The schools/facilities that will be included in the district rates and those that will receive graduation and dropout rates can be viewed at the following unpublished link on the CEPI Web site
https://cepi.state.mi.us/srsd/cepi_reports/GraduationDropoutMain.asp.
- 3) **Complete the security agreement:** In order to access the Graduation and Dropout Review and Comment Application, a security agreement must be completed and faxed to the Department of Information Technology (DIT) Client Service Center. We have enclosed a copy of the security agreement, and it is also available on the CEPI Web site, as referenced in Item 1 above.

In the next few weeks, you will receive a follow-up letter that will provide more detailed information concerning the submission period and accessing the Web-based Graduation and Dropout Review and Comment Application. Please watch for this important communication item.

As always, thank you for your continued collaboration with CEPI and MDE.

cc: ISD superintendents
PSA authorizers

Attachment